

The Sydney Morning Herald

No. 24,952.

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SYDNEY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1917.

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SUMMARY.

Field-Marshal Haig reported that the German army on Sunday morning raised an outburst of Epey and took some prisoners. The British drove off attempted raids south-east of Mauchy-le-Francois and west of La Bassée.

A German official message stated: An enterprise on the Hoeselgh-Staden railway resulted in English prisoners being taken.

A French communiqué stated: From December 21 to 23 there were 100 air fights, mostly over the enemy lines.

Eighteen enemy aeroplanes were brought down, and 10 were sent on fire or destroyed by the crash.

The British statement of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that the Government will not make a further peace offer.

The "New York Times" points out that the German intention is to be taken in the Christmas offensive.

The German, it is stated, may attack simultaneously towards Calais, Ypres, Reims, and Nancy.

The movement of a considerable number of Austrians towards the West front has begun.

Diplomats believe the German concentration in Flanders is intended to mislead, and that an offensive in Alsace is likely.

Lord Northcliffe says the Allied cause will be nearer victory in 1918 if America provides the most of the money.

The Russo-German armistice has caused a serious difference between the German Government and the Russian Government.

The German Government is endeavoring to prevent the expansion of the socialist movement.

The attention is attracted by the fact that the Russian Government is endeavoring to prevent the expansion of the socialist movement.

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as farmers is intended to be taken in the

Christmas season.

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ALL YOU HAVE TO PAY

IS FOR EVERY ADVANCED

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POUND STERLING

FOR EVERY ADVANCED

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THE UKRAINE AGAINST LENINITE PEACE MENACE TO GERMANS

LONDON, Dec. 24.

A Petrograd report says 31,000,000 people in the Ukraine are solidly opposing Lenin's separate peace.

The announcement that the Ukraine is backing up with General Kaledin with a view to defeating the south-western and Rumanian fronts has compelled the Germans to move their troops from the northern sectors to meet the new menace.

It is reported that the Bolsheviks have sent Guards from Petrograd and Moscow against the Ukraine.

A Petrograd message says M. Trotsky declares that documents found on Colonel Kolchakoff show that he knew the situation of the Red Cross Mission, he assisted General Kaledin's movements, and that Messrs. Anderson and Robins of the Red Cross Mission in Rumania tried to furnish General Kaledin with motors and other transports, also money.

REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

The "Petit Parisien" Petrograd correspondent says that the High Revolutionary Tribunal has been opened. It comprises 50 members appointed by the Soviet under the presidency of M. Jankov, a workman.

The first case was that of Schoups, agent-provocateur and an old secret police officer. The next cases are Cadets, to be followed by the trial of M. Terechenko (ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs) for omitting to publish secret treaties.

GERMAN INFLUENCES

A Stockholm report says the "National Tidende" states that a former German diplomat named Lucius is forming a German army in Petrograd, consisting of prisoners of war, offered by the Government to the German cause.

Other Petrograd messages state that Germany intends to re-establish the Empire of Russia. Berlin's candidate is the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, who will enter into an immediate alliance with the German and Austrian Empires.

CHAOTIC SITUATION

The following appeared in the later editions of Monday's "Herald":—

The Russian situation is chaotic. The Bolsheviks' present position is limited to North-west Russia, and depends on a union of the industrial classes with the peasants, which is unlikely to last. Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks are carrying out their revolutionary policy. They are demolishing the army, nationalising property, and distributing land to the peasants.

All the Ukrainian forces are being mobilised for war against the Bolsheviks in Southern Russia, and will oppose a German invasion of Southern Russia.

The Petrograd correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle" says that the Bolsheviks are convinced that their revolutionary enthusiasm will spread to Western Europe. The extreme papers promise revolution in Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, and elsewhere.

Mr. Bolsheviki military committee is investigating the responsibility for the war. It is believed that the result will be the trial of the ex-Czar, German Emperor, and others before a tribunal consisting of representatives of all the European democracies.

Civil war is developing in the south. Notwithstanding that the Red and the Soviet are negotiating to secure a peaceful settlement, the Bolsheviks are concentrating all the forces of the ex-Czar, German Emperor, and others before a tribunal consisting of representatives of all the European democracies.

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WESTERN FRONT. ALLIED ARMEN SCORE.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Mr Douglas Haig, reporting at midday on Sunday stated: Under cover of a heavy barrage yesterday afternoon the enemy locally attacked near the Ypres-Staden railway, and drove in the enemy advanced post a short distance along 700 yards. There has been hostile artillery firing in the neighbourhood of Gheluvelt and Poelcapelle.

Sir Douglas Haig, in his midday report on Sunday stated: The enemy early this morning raided an outpost eastward of Epehy, and took a few prisoners. The raid was in the neighbourhood of the Menin-road were driven off.

Aeroplane on Saturday brought a big gun near Lille, also bombs, bullets, and trench. They machine-gunned infantry in the trenches. Many thousands of shells were fired. Four German machines were brought down. Aeroplanes of the enemy's night-flying squadrons, also important railway stations were bombed at night. Several pilots made two flights to one aeroplane. Many hits were made on the sheds. All our machines returned.

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The Admiralty announced: Aircraft on Sunday night dropped six tons of bombs on St. Denis, Western, Marikake, and Montakere aerodromes. Good shooting was made, and all returned.

FRENCH REPORTS.

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GERMAN REPORT.

A German official message states: An enterprise on the Boulogne-Staden railway resulted in 30 English prisoners.

THE AUSTRALIANS.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS. (FROM C. E. W. BEAN, COMMONWEALTH WAR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, France, Dec. 22. The Australians are in country which is at present in an exact picture of old-time Christmas. The ground is covered with white frost, and every tree is outlined in sparkling white. In some parts where there is snow the men have been tobogganing down hills of sliding over frozen pools. The Germans are making a raiding, trying to cut off our post and discover how the line is held. They raided the division thirteen times this week. In the raiding party they carried the size of the post which they raided, they succeeded in capturing a post near Mesines, and picking up other men lost in the four former raids.

Our patrol certainly capture and kill far more than the Germans do, because they are not at home at this class of warfare. At the present time the Australians, who have been in the front since the beginning of the war, are certainly enjoying the sunny country which is their home. Christmas here is being made more homelike by funds partly provided by seven concert parties of soldiers, and partly by the generosity of the Australian military organisation, besides comforts funds and the Y.M.C.A. and two institutions which have splendidly helped the various portions of the Australian front.

Some of the men passed on the road a stout sergeant walking towards the village wherein he was billeted, followed by two small French boys, carrying a fat turkey, brought from below noted that the pilot never gave way, but turned and fought the Germans. A British artillery officer looking on said after the war: "There was a short engagement in the air, then one German plane began to glide earthwards, and landed behind the British line, shot through the head, and was captured intact. The Australian turned slowly towards, and those looking on from the ground reported that he was going on with his work. A second Australian observed the machine, and seeing its danger, went forward, and the Germans went off hurriedly, and the machine flying well.

The Press Bureau reports that the air raid was not attended by casualty or damage. It is stated that the raiding German was shot down over a town on the left, dropped a red flare, and a minute later broke out in flames. The machine landed swiftly in a field, turned over, blazing furiously.

Two hours later, from a point behind the British line 30 miles southward, came a telegram that there was found in a field an aeroplane containing two Australians, the pilot and observer, both dead. They had been injured by the fall, but the plane had 10 bullet holes through it, and one bullet had pierced the observer's chest from side to side. There was no serious injury.

The pilot, the observer, if he remained conscious, never attempted to fly the plane for the controls were untouched. That steady British plane had flown from the sky, gradually drifting with the wind, which was from the north-east, till after about two hours petrol began to be exhausted, when the observer became unconscious. The field above was concealed in clothing. Arrests are expected in current next week.

The "Kölnische Zeitung" predicts the co-ordination of the interests of Russia, Turkey, and Bulgaria in the Balkan Sea in the event of peace negotiations being concluded with Russia, enabling the Dardanelles to be opened to merchantmen and warships.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that the Government will not make a further peace offer.

"EVERYBODY WANTS PEACE." The "Berliner Zeitung" states that the German Emperor has indicated that he will probably go to Brest-Litovsk if the peace negotiations are successful. He also favours a gathering of all European monarchs and republics, as, he says, everybody wants peace, and all States must co-operate in solving the problems that lie ahead.

A Washington message says semi-officially that the French State has caused serious differences between the German Government and the Majority Socialists. The Government is endeavouring to prevent an expansion of the socialist movement.

EMPEROR'S HEROICS. An Amsterdam message says the German Emperor, in a field speech to the troops after his return from visiting the Verdun sector, referred to the great decision reached on the Eastern front, which was heavily due to the situation of the French and the German army withdrawing before the whole might of the Anglo-French forces on the Western front. Without boasting, he could boast that the enemy in the west had been shattered.

He renewed his claim that God had been the German people's ally in 1917, and would continue to be so in the future.

He went back to the world by using his own flat and shining sword against those who clout the door against peace.

"VORWAERTS" SUSPENDED. "Vorwaerts" has been suspended for publishing an article asserting that the Militarists seek to annex a large part of Russian territory.

THE PACIFIC. ENEMY'S AMBITION. The Hamburg "Freidenkblatt" says: "Germany must not surrender her island possessions in the Pacific, whose loss would mean the loss of her position as a world power. She must defend Australia and New Zealand against the Japanese, and threaten the western shores of North and South America."

At the conclusion of the peace conference it will be found that our South Sea possessions have considerably increased. It must be so.

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Some of the men passed on the road a stout sergeant walking towards the village wherein he was billeted, followed by two small French boys, carrying a fat turkey, brought from below noted that the pilot never gave way, but turned and fought the Germans. A British artillery officer looking on said after the war: "There was a short engagement in the air, then one German plane began to glide earthwards, and landed behind the British line, shot through the head, and was captured intact. The Australian turned slowly towards, and those looking on from the ground reported that he was going on with his work. A second Australian observed the machine, and seeing its danger, went forward, and the Germans went off hurriedly, and the machine flying well.

The Press Bureau reports that the air raid was not attended by casualty or damage. It is stated that the raiding German was shot down over a town on the left, dropped a red flare, and a minute later broke out in flames. The machine landed swiftly in a field, turned over, blazing furiously.

Two hours later, from a point behind the British line 30 miles southward, came a telegram that there was found in a field an aeroplane containing two Australians, the pilot and observer, both dead. They had been injured by the fall, but the plane had 10 bullet holes through it, and one bullet had pierced the observer's chest from side to side. There was no serious injury.

The pilot, the observer, if he remained conscious, never attempted to fly the plane for the controls were untouched. That steady British plane had flown from the sky, gradually drifting with the wind, which was from the north-east, till after about two hours petrol began to be exhausted, when the observer became unconscious. The field above was concealed in clothing. Arrests are expected in current next week.

The "Kölnische Zeitung" predicts the co-ordination of the interests of Russia, Turkey, and Bulgaria in the Balkan Sea in the event of peace negotiations being concluded with Russia, enabling the Dardanelles to be opened to merchantmen and warships.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that the Government will not make a further peace offer.

"EVERYBODY WANTS PEACE." The "Berliner Zeitung" states that the German Emperor has indicated that he will probably go to Brest-Litovsk if the peace negotiations are successful. He also favours a gathering of all European monarchs and republics, as, he says, everybody wants peace, and all States must co-operate in solving the problems that lie ahead.

A Washington message says semi-officially that the French State has caused serious differences between the German Government and the Majority Socialists. The Government is endeavouring to prevent an expansion of the socialist movement.

EMPEROR'S HEROICS. An Amsterdam message says the German Emperor, in a field speech to the troops after his return from visiting the Verdun sector, referred to the great decision reached on the Eastern front, which was heavily due to the situation of the French and the German army withdrawing before the whole might of the Anglo-French forces on the Western front. Without boasting, he could boast that the enemy in the west had been shattered.

He renewed his claim that God had been the German people's ally in 1917, and would continue to be so in the future.

He went back to the world by using his own flat and shining sword against those who clout the door against peace.

"VORWAERTS" SUSPENDED. "Vorwaerts" has been suspended for publishing an article asserting that the Militarists seek to annex a large part of Russian territory.

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Other Petrograd messages state that Germany intends to re-establish the Empire of Russia. Berlin's candidate is the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, who will enter into an immediate alliance with the German and Austrian Empires.

CHAOTIC SITUATION. The following appeared in the later editions of Monday's "Herald":—

The Russian situation is chaotic. The Bolsheviks' present position is limited to North-west Russia, and depends on a union of the industrial classes with the peasants, which is unlikely to last. Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks are carrying out their revolutionary policy. They are demolishing the army, nationalising property, and distributing land to the peasants.

LATE WAR NEWS. POPE'S PEACE EFFORTS.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

A message from Rome states that the Pope, in receiving the College of Cardinals who presented the Christmas greetings, pronounced an allocution regarding the failure of the last peace initiative, which he says, "was prompted by the tears of mothers, widows, and orphans, and the desire to end the war as soon as possible."

He expressed great joy at the liberation of Jerusalem.

PALESTINE. BRITISH PUSHING ON. An official message from Palestine states: Troops on the extreme left, with naval co-operation, on Saturday, continued to advance northward of Nablus, reaching the four miles north of Jaffa, reaching the line of Sheikh-Ballutah and El-Jell, four miles northward of the river. They occupied Fejja and Muleib, southward of the river, also Battich, Kheleida, and Kheleida. Two and a half tons of bombs were dropped on the retreating enemy, causing many casualties; also on rolling stock transport. Machine guns fired 9000 rounds on the enemy's column at short range.

GERMAN FLEET. SUGGESTED ATTACK. A Washington message states that Admiral Pisker advocates a carefully prepared plan to attack the German fleet at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven, which would lead to a tremendous victory.

THE ARGENTINE. WAR FEELING GROWING. A message from Buenos Ayres says it is reliably learnt that Germany instructed her agents in River Plate ports to destroy all the shipping regardless of cost. The instruction follows the success of the negotiations for the purchase of the surplus harvest as a preliminary to Argentina's debt as a belligerent.

Troops have been compelled to disperse an anti-German demonstration. Public feeling in favour of war is growing. It is expected there will be an early debate in Parliament.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES. HOPES OF VICTORY. The "New York Times" publishes the following Christmas messages:—

Lord Northcliffe: We want ships. The Allied cause will be nearer victory in 1918 if America provides 5,000,000 tons of new ship building.

Mr. McAdoo, Under-Secretary to the Treasury: I am sure victory will be achieved in 1918.

Mr. Lloyd George: I have no doubt the ever-growing league of free nations will free the civilised world from the menace of militarism.

The Bishop of London's Christmas message reads: "Britain, rising like a tower out of the deep, as a nation, has been the world's hope. It is the duty of the nation to be honoured by the admiration of friends; and every tree is outlined in sparkling white. In some parts where there is snow the men have been tobogganing down hills of sliding over frozen pools. The Germans are making a raiding, trying to cut off our post and discover how the line is held. They raided the division thirteen times this week. In the raiding party they carried the size of the post which they raided, they succeeded in capturing a post near Mesines, and picking up other men lost in the four former raids."

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ROYAL MESSAGE. FROM THE KING AND QUEEN.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The following cablegrams have been received by His Excellency the Governor-General from their Majesties the King and Queen:—

"I send to all ranks of the navy and army my hearty good wish for Christmas and the New Year. I realise your hardships, and cheerfully borne, and rejoice in the successes you have won so nobly. The nation stands faithful to its pledges, resolute to fulfil them. May God bless your efforts and give us victory."

"George R.I."

A second message reads:—"Our Christmas thoughts are with the sick and wounded sailors and soldiers. We know by personal experience with what patience and cheerfulness their suffering is borne. We wish all a speedy restoration to health, a restful Christmas,

AUSTRALIAN WEATHER

A rather slow movement of the high pressure over eastern Europe has been attended with the general barometric pressure rise, and more frequent rain, and temperatures of 30 degrees and over were recorded. The rear of this "high" at 2 a.m. on Monday lay about parallel to the eastern equator, where the storm waves should result in much rain, maintaining later in thundery squalls.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Pte. Alfred Cox, Bickley, Emucliffe. 10
Pte. William G. Bickley, Emucliffe. 10
Riley's Bill (over, per. wounded). Pte. Albert
Pte. George Bickley, Emucliffe. 10
Pte. Gavin Clifford Russell, Bickley. 10
Pte. George Bickley, Emucliffe. 10
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Pte. Frank Thomas, Highman.
Rene Hill (wt.). Pte. Percy Hamilton Bell, River.
Queensland.—Pte. Robert Gustavus Clark, Clarence
River.
TASMANIA.—Pte. Cliff Clifton, Adamantara (not
wounded).
Victoria.—Pte. Frank Chaudron, Adamantara (not
wounded).
Pte. Clifford Clifton Affick, Zara (not
wounded).

RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU,
DALTON HOUSE, 115, PITT STREET.
Persons who are in need of clothing, food, or
aid, or, if wounded, or missing men are invited to call or write
to the above address, and the Red Cross will endeavor to
help them.
LANIER OFFICE.

THE MAIL.

THURSDAY.
South Australia.—10 a.m.
Victoria.—10 a.m.
New South Wales.—10 a.m.
Macley River.—10 a.m.
Clarence River.—10 a.m.
River Day.—10 a.m.
River Day.—10 a.m.

TO-DAY.
A.I.C. Summer Meeting: 12.15.
Her Majesty's Theatre: "The Red Widow," 7.30.
Cinema Theatre: "Peter Pan," 7 and 9.
Palace Theatre: "The New Henrietta," 7.30.
Playhouse: "Hedge of the Heart," 7.30.
Theatre Royal: Juvenile Performance, 2 and 5.
Theatre Royal: "The Red Widow," 7.30.
Grand Opera House: "Hobson's Choice," 7.30.
Theatre Royal: "The Red Widow," 7.30.

THURSDAY.
Expatriation Forces—Night Concert, Gaiety and
include only—16.00.
Expatriation Forces—Night—Gaiety, include, packet, paper,
and parcel—None.
Monte Carlo—12.00.
Expatriation Forces, England and France, (pencil,
and Newspaper)—3 p.m.
Coffin—12.00.
Western Australia—3 p.m.
Expatriation Forces—12.00.
China (Paris only)—3 p.m.
Japan (Paris only)—3 p.m.

Mrs. Colley, Royal Mint, Sydney, organized
a concert in the Conservatorium some weeks
ago for the benefit of the church hall in
Sydney. The concert was given by the
orchestra, and the concert was very successful,
and resulted in £400 being left for distribution
after all expenses were met.

